

August 23, 2020

Because God loves you, He Provides- Part 76

Did you know that God loves you more than anyone else could ever love you?

God proves His love to you by providing **His perfecting** love. **1 John 4:18** *“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”*

The Greek word for **perfecting or perfect love** is *telieia* which we looked at a few weeks ago. But in combination with the word for **fear**, *phobos*, it tells us that God’s perfect love literally pushes out all of our fears, our phobias. Why? Because there is no eternal punishment coming our way any longer. The punishment for our sin was placed upon Jesus. He bore our intended chastisement. We therefore don’t need to fear. We have been set free. There is no more bondage nor punishment coming our way. This sets us free to love in the same manner that we are loved by God Himself. **Rom. 8:1-2** *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.”* We were absolutely powerless to do this on our own. Look at the very next two verses **Rom. 8:3-4** *“For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”* Now, there is still earthly punishment. We bring things upon ourselves because of our sin and there are always consequences for our sin here on this earth. But the amazing fact is this, God sees us as though we had never sinned. We have been justified by faith.

I love the quote by *Oswald Chambers* - *“I am not saved by believing— I simply realize I am saved by believing. And it is not repentance that saves me— repentance is only the sign that I realize what God has done through Christ Jesus. The danger here is putting the emphasis on the effect, instead of on the cause. Is it my obedience, consecration, and dedication that make me right with God? It is never that! I am made right with God because, prior to all of that, Christ died. When I turn to God and by belief accept what God reveals, the miraculous atonement by the Cross of Christ instantly places me into a right relationship with God. And as a result of the supernatural miracle of God’s grace I stand justified, not because I am sorry for my sin, or because I have repented, but because of what Jesus has done. The Spirit of God brings justification with a shattering, radiant light, and I know that I am saved, even though I don’t know how it was accomplished.”* - (*“My Utmost For His Highest”* - Oct. 28)

Dear Father, You have given us such great love, that You would take on flesh, dwell among us, show us unconditional love, and then pay for our sins on a cruel cross at Calvary. How could we ever thank You enough. We have been justified by faith. In Jesus Name, Amen